

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Donald W. Hanson on November 05, 2009.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims

3. (a) In claim 1, line 13, after "right" delete "in" and insert -- along --. Also In claim 1, line 14, after "overlap" insert -- along -- before "a line". Furthermore in claim 1, lines 13-14, replace "said adjacent blowing means" with --said blowing means--.

(b) In claim 3, line 13, after "right" delete "in" and insert -- along--. Also in claim 3, lines 13- 14, replace "said adjacent blowing means" with -- said blowing means --.

(c) In claim 8, line 13, after "right" delete "in" and insert – along --. Also in claim 8, line 14, after "overlap" insert -- along -- before "a line". Furthermore in claim 8, line 14, replace "the adjacent first casing members" with -- "the first casing members --.

(d) In claim 10, line 13, after "down" delete "in" and insert -- along --. Also in claim 10, line 14; replace "the adjacent first casing members" with -- "the first casing members --.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1, 3, 8 and 10 are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to claims 1 and 8, the prior art of record fails to teach a reflow soldering apparatus having a first casing member having a fan storage section housing blowing means and a gas guide; a second casing member; wherein said blowing means are arrayed offset to the left and right along a plane that is parallel to the plane of travel of the conveyor; wherein adjacent blowing means overlap along a line that is perpendicular to the transport line of the conveyor; wherein said first casing member and said second casing member have a width smaller than the diameter of said blowing means and other claimed features.

With respect to claims 3 and 10, the prior art of record fails to teach a reflow soldering apparatus having a first casing member having a fan storage section housing blowing means and a gas guide; a second casing member; wherein said blowing means are arrayed offset up and down along a plane that is parallel to the plane of travel of the conveyor; wherein adjacent blowing means overlap along a line that is perpendicular to the transport line of the conveyor; wherein aid first casing member and said second

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casing member have a width smaller than the diameter of said blowing means and other claimed features.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL ABOAGYE whose telephone number is (571)272-8165. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri 8:30am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jessica Ward can be reached on 571-272-1223. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. A./
Examiner, Art Unit 1793

/Jessica L. Ward/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1793